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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5952  
INFO RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 1063  
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY IMMEDIATE 3411  
RUEHXS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY  
RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 4241  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0701  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 1687  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 002354

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DEPARTMENT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/ANP, INR/EAP, EAP/MLS,  
DRL/PHD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/28/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINS](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: PAPUA: NO CORROBORATION OF PURPORTED SECURITY  
FORCE INVOLVEMENT IN SLAYINGS

Classified By: Pol/C Joseph Legend Novak for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) SUMMARY: An Australian newspaper has reported the murder of two Papuans in central Papua, purportedly by Indonesian security forces. Our contacts have so far failed to provide any credible evidence of police or military involvement in the slayings. END SUMMARY

12. (SBU) The Sunday Age (Melbourne, Australia) on August 26 published a story alleging that Indonesian security forces had murdered two Papuans in Nabire, Papua. (Note: Nabire, a town of about 75,000 residents, is located approximately 600 kilometers southwest of Jayapura.) One victim was found dead three weeks ago while the other was found two weeks earlier. Both were members of the Kingmi Church, an Evangelical Christian group. Their bodies reportedly had numerous deep cuts, lacerations and other mutilations. Reverend Socratez Yoman, the only Papuan quoted in the article, charged that the murders were part of a campaign by security forces to intimidate Papuans.

13. (C) Embassy contacts have so far been unable to provide any credible evidence of security force involvement in the killings. Australian Embassy officer Michael Kachel, who has just returned from a visit to Papua, told poloff he had found no evidence of security force involvement, although several Papuans had cited text-messages alleging this. The International Crisis Group's Francesca Lawe-Davies, a long-time Papua observer, told poloff that Rev Yoman had been an unreliable source in the past.

14. (C) Like many events in remote parts of Papua, these murders quickly became the subject of rumor, speculation and conspiracy theories, with text-messages cycling around. Several interlocutors speculated to us that the murders might be related to divisions within the Kingmi Church, and in particular, a bitter court struggle over control of church property, but there is no evidence of that either.  
HUME